



Education Matters

Monthly Newsletter of the Gila County School Superintendent's Office

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Upcoming Events

October 29, 2013
College & Career Fair in Globe
Freeport Training Center

February 20, 2014
Gila County Spelling Bee
MHS Auditorium

February 26, 2014
Gila County Science Fair
Location TBD

March 27, 2014
Arizona Water Festival
in Globe

Welcome from Superintendent Linda O'Dell

It seems hard to believe that we have already completed the first quarter of the school year and are moving quickly toward the holiday season! There are lots of school and community activities taking place, something for everyone! We are launching some new communications strategies and updating our website to keep you better informed and to provide opportunities for collaboration and communication with your peers in Gila County and beyond. This newsletter is one of our new communication pieces. Please let us know what you think. We welcome your input and suggestions to keep it interesting and relevant!



I know our schools and districts are busy keeping up with many mandates and expectations placed on them, made difficult because of limited resources. Our Education Service Agency staff has been meeting with administrators and teachers to determine how our office can best help support them with training, services, or other resources. As time is a critical factor, our Education Specialists are prepared to provide training for teachers and school staff as needed, i.e., during staff/grade level meetings, school or district professional development days, or through the use of technology-based platforms. Please let us know how we can help you!

Upcoming activities that we are sponsoring or involved with include the Career & College Fairs for high school students in north and south Gila County as well as the annual Spelling Bee and Science Fair. We will once again host a STEMfest (Science-Technology-Engineering-Math) in Globe on March 29, and have scheduled our first STEMfest for Payson for Saturday, May 3. These are great family-oriented community events, and we welcome your assistance and participation in planning and implementing them!

The Gila County Education Service Agency is a member of the East Central Regional Service Center (ECRSC), comprised of the Gila, Graham, Greenlee and Pinal County School Offices. This partnership was established as part of the state's Race to the Top grant as one of five regional service agencies. Funding through the ECRSC supports our four counties in providing training and services

Upcoming Events

March 29, 2014
STEMFest in Globe

May 3, 2014
STEMFest in Payson

Resources for educators

AZ Department of Education

www.azed.gov

Edutopia

www.edutopia.org

AZ Science Teacher Association

www.azsta.org

AZ Association of Teachers of Mathematics

www.aatm.org

Resources for parents

AZ Parent Teacher Association

www.azpta.org

Expect More Arizona

www.expectmorearizona.org

Khan Academy

www.khanacademy.org

In the media

Arizona Supreme Court Says Legislature Must Fund Education Inflation Factor

www.arizonaea.org/home/520.htm

in a variety of areas, including the implementation of the new academic standards, teacher and principal evaluations and student data systems. For information on current education issues, please feel free to contact me at (928) 402-8784 or (928) 472-5371. We appreciate your efforts on behalf of Gila County students, and we are here to serve you!

Dr. Linda L. O'Dell

Kinnick named Gila County Teacher of the Year

Payson High School mathematics teacher, Halli Kinnick, is the 2013 recipient of the Gila County Teacher of the Year award for excellent teaching, community involvement, and leadership. Dr. Linda O'Dell, Gila County School Superintendent, announced Halli as the winner of this year's competition in late June following a week of interviews.



Halli, a highly respected math and science teacher, has been instructing Gila County students since 1996. She says that "teaching is in my blood" as both maternal grandparents and her stepfather were involved in education. Halli has created curricula for the Payson schools in science, *Character Counts!*, and more recently, culinary arts. However, she is adamant in stating she teaches children, not subjects. Halli knows from experience that one way to engage students is to first learn about them as students. She is a continual learner herself and enjoys working in teams to develop integrated lessons or units. One focus of the past school year was partnering with Devon Wells, Payson High School culinary arts. Halli said, "this collaboration saved time so we could better prepare real life instruction for our math and culinary arts students."

"Halli Kinnick exemplifies the high energy and can-do attitude that motivates students and colleagues alike," said Dr. O'Dell. "I was pleased to be on hand in Flagstaff earlier this fall when Halli was named the 2013 Gila County Teacher of the Year by the Arizona Rural Schools Association, following in the footsteps of Wayne Gorry in 2011 and Marlene Armstrong in 2012."

Payson's Armstrong receives national recognition

Gila County's 2012 Teacher of the Year, Marlene Armstrong of Payson, Arizona, has received national recognition as a 2013-14 finalist in the Monsanto Fund National Rural Teacher of the Year competition. Armstrong was also last year's Arizona Rural Schools Association Teacher of the year.

Armstrong has been teaching the subjects of Computer Science and Engineering to students in grades sixth through ninth at Rim Country Middle School and Payson High School for seven years. Her colleague described her as

In the media

Common Assessments Hold Promise, Face Challenges, Study Finds

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/curriculum/2013/01/common_assessments_hold_promis.html

Mesa Arts Center offers performance grants to education groups

www.azcentral.com/community/mesa/articles/20131015mesa-arts-center-offers-performance-grants-education-groups.html

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"one of the most amazing educators," adding, "In the classroom, Marlene demonstrates every day the value of teaching to the individual needs of every student. She has designed and uses a differentiated program that allows students to work at their own pace and challenges students at all levels."

The award is sponsored by the National Rural Education Association each year to honor teachers who do an outstanding job serving in rural school districts. This year's overall winner was Paul Kuhlman of Avon High School in Avon, S.D.



Superintendent O'Dell reaches out to team of Colombian educators

On September 25, 2013, Gila County School Superintendent, Dr. Linda O'Dell, met with a team of educators out of Bogotá, Colombia and the Arizona SciTech Festival director, Dr. Jeremy Babendure, to discuss projects that have taken place throughout the state to promote STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). The Colombians traveled to Arizona with the goal of collecting information and insight on various ways to enhance the popularity of these subjects in primary and secondary schools in their region.



Superintendent O'Dell described the realization of Globe's STEMfest starting from a vision to bring businesses, schools, and community entities together to make the sciences fun for kids of all ages. The Colombian educators were very interested in the success of the local project and saw it as a viable project they could also recreate at home.

German and Fabiola are educators at the Gimnasio Campestre Marie Curie and are passionate about providing quality education despite a number of obstacles in their region. Some of these include problems relating to drugs and alcohol, lack of resources, disinterest of larger government agencies to lend a supportive role, a long-standing apathy toward education, low levels of interest in the business community to invest in the education system, and the lack of involvement of parents. Both educators listened to Superintendent O'Dell describe similar obstacles in Gila County and were enthusiastic to hear of the County's ability to succeed in overcoming barriers and establishing strong partnerships in the community.

The Colombian team looks forward to continued communication with Superintendent O'Dell and views Gila County's organic STEMfest as an

excellent example of the type of projects they would like to realize back in Bogotá.

For more on the Gimnasio Campestre Marie Curie and their vision, you can watch an information video at <http://youtube/LyLuC8GkJhg>.

Payson hosts 2013 College & Career Fair



The Gila County School Superintendent's Office, in cooperation with the Payson Unified School District, hosted its second annual Northern College & Career Fair at Payson High School on October 4, 2013. Over 200 students attended the fair and were able to connect with representatives from major colleges and universities as well as from the military, business community, and civic organizations.

On October 29, the Southern Gila County College & Career Fair will be held at the Freeport-McMoRan Training Center. Juniors and seniors from Globe, Miami, Hayden-Winkelman, San Carlos, Superior, and Young have been invited to attend. Over 50 organizations will be represented at the event.

Intel Arizona Educator Academy - Loving to Wonder

By Gail Gorry, Education Specialist of the Gila County Schools Office and ASTA Region IX Director; Adapted from its original publication by the Arizona Science Teachers Association

Ever wonder just how much a student can learn? Do you sometimes want to let students run with a project? The results of teachers coaching students to do this were evident in the Intel International Science Fair I visited while attending the Intel Arizona Educator Academy in Phoenix, Arizona in May.



This international science fair included representations from 70 different countries and felt like a global science party! The young adults competed for top prizes by exhibiting and explaining their detailed projects to judges as well as the general public. What an awesome experience to see these scientists in

action!

After we experienced firsthand the opening session roll call of the international science fair, the next four days were filled with numerous presentations geared to examine our own interactions with students and how we infuse our teaching experiences with inquiry-based techniques so students can be successful scientists in coming decades.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, “People love to wonder and that is the seed of science.” Dr. Sharon Kortman (Arizona Science Center) shared in her presentations that it is imperative we continue to work collaboratively to build STEM in our schools. Using programs such as Engineering in Elementary, we can continue Emerson’s “wondering” or inquiry throughout a student’s science career.

Building Capacity in Science Instruction workshop

The Arizona Science Teachers Association, in partnership with the AZ Department of Education and the Partnership for Effective Teaching and Learning, invite you to participate in a stellar event to learn the most current efforts in effective science education.



The **Building Capacity in Science Instruction through the Framework for K-12 Science Education** workshop is designed to engage educators in developing deep understanding of science teaching and learning consistent with the vision for science education described in the *Framework*. Educators across the country are engaging in similar study to learn from experts in the field and to plan and implement engaging and effective science education.

When: Wednesday, Nov. 13 – Thursday, Nov. 14, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day

Who: PK-16+ Educators, Principals, Science Education Leaders, Informal Science Educators, Pre-Service and Professional Development Providers

Where: Mesa Convention Center, 263 N. Center Street, Mesa, AZ 85201

With generous funding support from the Helios Education Foundation, we are able to offer financial support for rural school/district teams. A limited number of teams will be selected to receive up to \$700 in scholarship support to be used for registration and/or lodging costs. Preference will be given to teams (3 or more individuals attending).

We encourage you to submit the application to astaexecdir@gmail.com before **November 1, 2013** in order to be considered for a scholarship. More information about the 2 day institute and lodging can be found at the ASTA website: <http://www.azsta.org/node/482>.

Meet the staff of the Gila County Schools Office

Dr. Linda O'Dell, Gila County School Superintendent



Gila County Schools Office

Victoria Sanchez
Executive Administrative Assistant
Ruth Lopez
Senior Account Clerk
Margie Velasquez
Account Clerk II
Jeffrey Baer
Education Technology Services

Gila County Detainee Educational Programs

Dr. Richard Vierling
Associate Superintendent
Chandra Shekhar
*Teacher for Gila County Juvenile
Detention and Gila County Jail
education programs*
Luis Rodriguez
Instructional Assistant



Education Service Agency

Gail Gorry
Education Specialist
Mary Lou Weatherly
Education Specialist
Dolores Goughnour
Education Specialist
Holly Sow
*Communications & Outreach
Specialist*

GED Testing Services

Chastity VanBuskirk
Chief Examiner
Dolores Goughnour
Examiner
Lenny Leverance
Examiner
Susan Guerrero
Examiner



Gila County Accommodation School District

Dr. Linda O'Dell
Superintendent
Dr. Richard Vierling
Associate Superintendent
Bridget Carrington
Principal, Globe Education Center
Peggy Miles
Principal, Payson Education Center

Adult Education

Michael Palmer
Director
Loren Dodt
Instructor, Globe
Jessica Doong
Kenneth Chan
Instructors, San Carlos
Kay Adams
Instructor, Payson



Did you know...

- ✚ 66% of Kindergarten teachers say their students are not prepared when they started school.
- ✚ 22% of Arizona's students do not graduate from high school on time.
- ✚ 53% of Arizona's graduates do not qualify to enroll in our state's public universities.
- ✚ 59% of Arizona students that attend a community college require remediation.
- ✚ 85% of high-growth, high-wage jobs in Arizona will require some form of higher education and work experience, while only 35% of Arizona's working adults hold an associate's degree or greater.

- See more at: <http://www.expectmorearizona.org/resources/parents/#sthash.hWxbzX12.dpuf>